

BETTY T. YEE, BOARD MEMBER STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Serving the 8.5 million Californians of the First Equalization District, comprised of 21 counties along the northern and central California coast, including the entire San Francisco Bay Area.

VOLUME VII, ISSUE V



MAY 2013

MAY NEWSLETTER

WHO IS STALLED ON THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY?

Economic indicators point to an improving economy. Yet as encouraging as this is, a troubling finding is a gender bias in California's economic recovery. Women continue to feel the effects of the recession to a greater degree than men, and are still struggling to recover. Women, especially low income women and single mothers, are having a harder time getting back on their feet. Here are a few reasons why.

Many of the jobs dominated by women, such as K-12 teachers, and many local government jobs were negatively effected by state and local budget cuts. Seven out of 10 employees in public schools are women. In the past three years, over 11 percent of teachers lost their jobs.

Women disproportionately are beneficiaries of programs meant to give people tools to lift themselves out of poverty. Therefore, women, especially single mothers and seniors, were harder hit when these programs were cut as part of the state's budget actions. For example, more than 90 percent of single parent households receiving CalWORKS cash assistance are headed by women. CalWORKS provides modest cash assistance while helping parents overcome barriers to employment and find jobs.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) which helps the elderly and disabled live safely at home also disproportionately serves women. Women are more likely to live longer, live alone, and live in poverty as they age, hence cuts to programs such as IHSS hit older women harder. Also hurt by cuts are IHSS caregivers, who are not highly paid, and also tend to be women.



Higher education is proven to help raise incomes and employment opportunities. Yet public colleges experienced severe budget cuts during the recession. In turn, tuition increased steeply, making access to higher education more difficult. Programs to help with childcare and preschool also have been cut. Again, most single parent households

are women, so these cuts make it harder for single women parents to access higher education. A college degree goes a long way in improving one's prospects for self-sufficiency, and too many women are not getting that leg up on education that could end their dependency on public assistance.

Compounding the difficulty of recovery from the recession for women and the overall economy, is that women continue to suffer from the gender wage gap. Women earn 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. Women's earnings no longer comprise discretionary income for households, thus the economic impact of the gender wage gap, and women not being employed in high paying jobs are profound. Feminist icon Gloria Steinem commented that, "...the most effective economic stimulus would be equal pay. It would put about \$200 billion more a year into the economy."

So while we welcome the signs of economic recovery, we cannot leave women behind. Investment in programs that propel women into self-sufficiency is money well spent. I am eager to see *all* Californians share in the improving economy.

To learn more about services provided by the State Board of Equalization, please call my office or visit my web site at:
www.boe.ca.gov/members/yee

SAN FRANCISCO
BOARD MEMBER'S OFFICE
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10500
San Francisco, CA 94102
Office: 415-557-3000
Fax: 415-557-0287

SACRAMENTO
BOARD MEMBER'S OFFICE
450 N Street, MIC: 71
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: 916-445-4081
Fax: 916-324-2087

HONORING THE LEGACY OF HARVEY MILK

“Gay brothers and sisters, ... You must come out. Come out... to your parents... Come out to your relatives... come out to your friends... if indeed they are your friends. Come out to your neighbors... to your fellow workers... to the people who work where you eat and shop... once and for all, break down the myths, destroy the lies and distortions.”

– Harvey Milk, 1978 Gay Freedom Day, San Francisco

California celebrates Harvey Milk every May 22, a special day honoring the life and enduring legacy of the slain lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights icon and San Francisco Supervisor.

At the heart of his plea for inclusion in American life and equal treatment under the law, was Milk's call to all members of the LGBT community to have the courage to come out. If enough gays and lesbians were open about their sexuality, negative stereotypes and fears would diminish as people became more familiar with LGBT individuals – at their workplace, in schools, among their friends, and in their families.

Two recent Supreme Court cases – one dealing with the constitutionality of California's ban on same-sex marriage (Proposition 8) and the other dealing with the validity of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which bars the federal government from acknowledging state issued same-sex marriage certificates – have further elevated the discussion of equality for all at the national level.

Driven in large part by a surge of support from young Americans, public polling now shows that a majority of Americans support the right of gays and lesbians to marry and the repeal of DOMA. The change in public opinion has been dramatic.

In schools, the FAIR Education Act requires that LGBT Americans, such as Harvey Milk and others, are included and recognized for their important historical contributions to the economic, political and social development of California and the United States.

Thirty-four years since Milk's assassination, the LGBT community is closer than it ever has been to full equality in the United States.



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



We celebrate Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) Heritage Month each May, in recognition of the rich history, culture, and many contributions made by the APIA community. This broad term encompasses people from China, Japan, Vietnam, Laos, the Philippines, Samoa, Korea, Cambodia and other countries in the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and the Pacific Islands. The cultures and languages of APIA communities all contribute to the richness of American life – from food, art, literature, and music, to our economy.

What began as a week long celebration in 1978, was later extended to a full month in 1992 by presidential decree. “As the daughter of Chinese immigrants, I am proud of the contributions of the APIA community to the American experience,” Ms. Yee said.

BASIC SALES AND USE TAX WORKSHOPS AND eFILE CLINICS

The Board of Equalization (BOE) offers free Basic Sales and Use Tax (BSUT) classes and eFile clinics in different languages including English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and others to provide in-person support to taxpayers. A full list of [BSUT classes and eFile clinics](#) being offered in the First Equalization District can be found on the website.

May 2:	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar in English (San Francisco)
May 14:	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar in English (San Jose)
May 14:	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar in Vietnamese (San Jose)
May 23:	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar in Chinese (San Francisco)
June 6:	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar in English (San Francisco)
June 6:	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar in Spanish (Salinas)
June 11:	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar in English (San Jose)
June 11:	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar in Spanish (Fairfield)

Online Tutorials: Don't have time to make a class in person? [Online BSUT tutorials](#) are now available to taxpayers, providing the information in a self-paced environment. Want more information on how to eFile with the BOE? A helpful [eFile Video Tutorial](#) is now available to assist taxpayers in fulfilling their tax obligation.



CALIFORNIA GASOLINE AND DIESEL DEMAND FELL IN FOURTH QUARTER 2012

Californians consumed 3.58 billion gallons of gasoline in October, November and December of 2012, a 1.7 percent decline from the 3.64 billion gallons consumed during those same months in 2011.

In California, the average price of gasoline in the fourth quarter of 2012 was \$3.99 per gallon. Nationally, the average price of gasoline during those same months was \$3.57, according to the [Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA). For the fourth quarter of 2012, statewide gasoline tax-related revenues are estimated to be \$432 million in sales taxes and \$1.29 billion in excise taxes in California.

Diesel Consumption

California's diesel fuel consumption decreased 0.4 percent in October, November and December of 2012 to 653 million gallons, compared to 656 million gallons during those same months in 2011.

In California, the average price of diesel fuel in the fourth quarter of 2012 was \$4.21 per gallon. Nationally, the average price of diesel fuel in the fourth quarter of 2012 was \$4.02, according to the EIA.

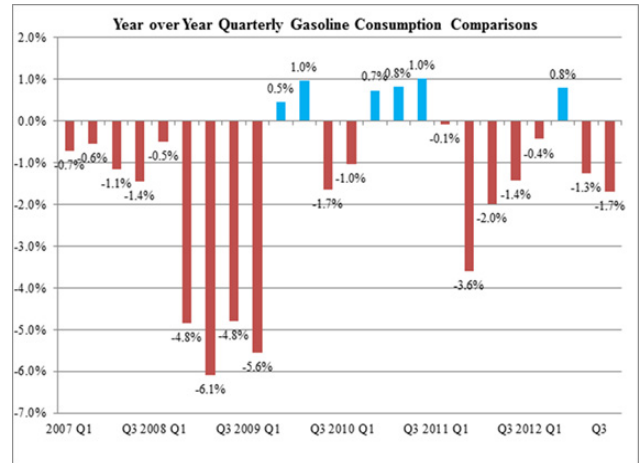
For the fourth quarter of 2012, statewide diesel fuel tax-related revenues are estimated to be \$248 million in sales taxes and \$76 million in excise tax in California.

Gasoline Consumption Trending Downward

For many years, gas prices have been rising sharply in California as well as the rest of the nation. Not surprisingly, consumers have responded to these higher prices by cutting gas consumption. The state's gas consumption peaked in 2005 at 15.9 billion gallons. Since then, consumption fell in five out of six years.

By 2011, Californians consumed 14.6 billion gallons of gas, an 8.4 percent decline from the 2005 peak. Nationally, motor vehicle consumption of gasoline and gasohol followed a similar pattern; however, the decline was less than half as sharp as California's. From the U.S. peak in 2004 (a year earlier than California) through 2011, gas consumption across the U.S. fell 4.6 percent.

What factors affect California gasoline consumption? Certainly economic growth is closely related to gas consumption. As the economy improves, more people have sufficient income to buy cars. They begin substituting traveling by public transportation for cars, and tend to travel more miles by car. Other factors include crude oil prices, technology, and the number of drivers on the road. Improved technologies have increased gas mileage in newer cars. Plus,



hybrid vehicles and electric cars reduce gas consumption. Weather and personal values, such as preferences for more “green technology,” are other factors somewhat unique to California when compared to the nation as a whole.

Gasoline Sales Important Revenue Source

Gasoline consumption used by cars and trucks is a very important revenue source for both state and local governments in California. In 2011, about \$6.8 billion in tax revenues related to motor vehicle fuel were collected, \$5.2 billion in state excise taxes and \$1.6 billion in sales and use taxes. A portion of sale and use tax revenue goes to cities, counties, and special districts. A portion of excise tax revenue goes to state and regional transportation projects.

